

# SUID AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEKE

UNIVERSITY  
OF MICHIGAN  
MAR 13 1951  
PERIODICAL  
READING ROOM



*Driemaandeliks Uitgegee deur die*  
SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEEKVERENIGING  
*Geredigeer vanuit die W. N. N. R., Pretoria*

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'n Beroep op alle Lede, *R.F. M. Immelman* : 69 Libraries of the Union of South Africa, *E.A. Borland* : 73 The Library in the Life of the Community to-day, I, *R.F. M. Immelman* : 83 Boekbesprekings : 72, 82, 94 Music in the Public Library, *M. Whiteley* : 91 The Inter-High Schools Librarians' Sub-Section, *E. V. Hinwood* : 95

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DEEL 18

JANUARIE 1951

NO. 3

A decorative border composed of small, stylized book icons arranged in a rectangular frame around the central text.

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# SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEKE

*Die Offisiële Orgaan van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging*

Deel 18

Januarie 1951

No. 3

## 'n BEROEP OP ALLE LEDE

OP DIE kongres van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging op Grahamstad onlangs, het dit duidelik geblyk dat die geldelike toestand van ons Vereniging nie bevredigend is nie. Die hoeveelheid werk wat die Ere-Sekretaris moet behartig het sodanig vermeerder dat 'n voltydse kantoorstaf van een of selfs twee assistente dringend noodsaaklik geword het. Maar aan die einde van die boekjaar op 30 junie 1950 het die Vereniging se boeke 'n tekort van sowat £170 getoon en dis moeilik om te sien hoe die Vereniging meer onkoste kan aangaan (wat dit teen wil en dank moet doen) indien die finansiële toestand nie ontsaglik verbeter nie.

Ek wil dus graag by my aanvaarding van die amp van President van die Suid-frikaanse Biblioteekvereniging 'n beroep op alle lede doen om die Raad in die volgende twee jaar te help en wel as volg :

- (1) Probeer om alle bibliotekarisse, assistente en werkers in biblioteke, studente in biblioteekskole, lede van biblioteekkomitees, en alle biblioteekinrigtings te oortuig om lede van die S.A.B.V. te word. Enige persone wat belangstel in verbeterde biblioteekdienste vir Suid-Afrika kan ook as lede aansluit, ook boekhandelaars, uitgewers, boekbinders, skrywers, joernaliste, professore aan universiteite, onderwysers, skole, tegniese kolleges, ens. Ons behoort ook veel meer oorseese intekenaars te probeer kry.
- (2) Dra by tot die Skenkingsfonds van die Vereniging. Op datum beloop dié Fonds slegs £50. 10. 0 en die Konferensie het besluit om 'n poging aan te wend om gedurende die volgende twee jaar minstens £150 te probeer byvoeg. 'n Beroep op takke word gemaak om elkeen iets by te dra, die groter takke (met meer as 70 lede) word gevra om ten minste £35 oor 'n tydperk van 2 jaar en die kleiner takke om ten minste £12 oor 2 jaar te stort. Sal elke lid enige pogings steun wat takke aanwend om geld vir hierdie doel in te samel ? Takke kan b.v. braai- en lees funksies,

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of film-vertonings, ens. vir die doel reël. Geld wat in die Skenkingsfonds gestort word, word belê en slegs die rente word vir die algemene werksaamhede van die Vereniging aangewend.

- (3) Betaal u eie ledegeld gereeld. Die sekretarisse van takke word vriedelik versoek om kwartaalliks op 1 Julie, Oktober, Januarie en April alle affiliasie-gelde vir ledegelde wat gedurende die voorafgaande kwartaal betaal is, na die Ere-Sekretaris aan te stuur. Die Vereniging is afhanklik van die geld wat takke aanstuur en as dit nie gereeld geskied nie, stuit hy op ernstige moeilikhede.
- (4) Probeer om meer advertensies vir *Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteke* te kry. Dring by u plaaslike boekhandelaars, binders, uitgewers, firmas wat kantoor-benodighede of boekrakke lewer, e.d.m. aan om in ons blad te adverteer. Die blad bereik die Vereniging se 700 lede, maar bowendien word dit deur lesers in die meeste biblioteke gesien. Wys hulle daarop dat dit in hulle belang is om in ons blad te adverteer en hulle goedere in andere dele van die land bekend te maak. Die tarief vir advertensies kan van die Ere-Sekretaris of Ere-Redaktrise gevra word.
- (5) Bring die werk van die Vereniging onder die aandag van bemiddelde persone en wys daarop dat geld aan die Vereniging by wyse van nalatenskappe of skenkings oorgedra of bemaak kan word. Sulke fondse kan altoos die naam van die skenker dra, belê word en die rente vir bepaalde doeleindes aangewend word soos deur die skenker neergelê, b.v. vir publikasies, vir boeklyste, vir studie-beurse vir studente in die biblioteekwese, vir salarisse van personeel van die hoofkantoor, ens. Op hierdie wyse kan skenkers die Vereniging steun in sy pogings om die biblioteeksaak in Suid-Afrika te bevorder sodat biblioteke dwarsdeur die land 'n groter bydrae op opvoedkundige, kulturele en maatskaplike gebied kan lewer.

Lede word versoek om tog nuus aangaande biblioteeksaak aan die Redakteur van die *Nuusbrief* te stuur, b.v. aanstellings, bevorderings, geskenke, belangrike ontwikkelings, ens. sodat ons meer kennis kan dra van aangeleenthede op biblioteekgebied.

Die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging het die een-en-twintigste jaar van sy stigting herdenk, en daarmee is hy sy kinderskoene ontwas. Die werksaamhede van ons professionele liggaam raak ons almal en is in ons almal se belang: die Vereniging beywer hom vir beter diensvoorwaardes, salarisskale en status vir biblioteekwerkers, maar op wyer terrein probeer hy bowendien om biblio-



## 'n BEROEP OP ALLE LEDE

teekgeriewe en dienste binne die bereik van die hele bevolking te bring en om munisipaliteite, provinsiale rade en die staat te beïnvloed om beter voorsiening vir biblioteke te maak, asook om verbeterde geldelike ondersteuning. Dit is nog 'n betreklike jong Vereniging, maar reeds kan ons roem op sy prestasies; ons moet nou voortbou en uitbou om die werk van die verlede te konsolideer, uit te brei en verruim.

Die nuwe Raad het 'n moeilike taak en 'n veeleisende program voor hom: die ondersteuning en samewerking van alle lede word versoek om die biblioteeksaak te bevorder en om deur middel van beter biblioteke 'n gewigtige bydrae tot die Suid-Afrikaanse kultuur te help lewer. Ek vra u persoonlike hulp.

R.F.M. IMMELMAN, President,  
Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging

## CLEARING HOUSE ACTIVITIES OF UNESCO FOR PERIODICAL REPRODUCTION

Unesco was instructed by the Third Session of the General Conference held in 1948 to devise a means for the reproduction of out-of-print periodicals. A small number of periodicals in the fields of higher studies and advanced technology was selected and enquiries were made of their publishers whether they were out-of-print.

Contact was made with publishing groups and individuals in Canada, France, Germany, the Middle East, the United Kingdom and the United States, where work has already started on the reproduction of out-of-print periodicals. In order to further the work being carried on in different countries, Clearing House activities for periodical reproduction have been established in connexion with the general publication clearing house activities of the Unesco Libraries Division.

Reports and enquiries received about out-of-print periodicals are centralized in the clearing house, and an attempt will be made to publish from time to time reports on the progress of work now being done in periodical reproduction. Particularly important in this respect is the development of union catalogues in various countries of long runs of periodicals on microfilm. The Committee on reproduction of periodicals of the Association of the Research Libraries of the United Nations has been most active in ascertaining the demand for the reproduction of United States periodicals.

For the present, attention will be directed to the reproduction of out-of-print issues of the following periodicals: *Nature*, *Architectural review*, *The Economist*, *Revue générale des sciences pures et appliquées*, *Journal of experimental medicine*, *Journal of biological chemistry*, *Review of economic statistics*. All these publications are in demand from libraries throughout the world and all of them have issues from 1939 to 1945, and some preceding years, out-of-print. Suitable methods will be employed to reproduce the number of copies required to meet the demand for subscriptions.

Libraries concerned to secure out-of-print issues of the above publications should write direct to the Libraries Division of Unesco, stating exactly which issues they need. At least 100 subscriptions must be received before any individual issue can be reproduced by photolithography. It is estimated that the demand will be sufficient to permit the use of photo-lithography only for out-of-print issues from 1939 to 1945. The price of each issue will be the same as originally set by the publisher. Issues out-of-print prior to 1939 will be considered for microfilming rather than for photo-lithography. The price of microfilm will be approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$ c. (U.S.) or 1.50 French francs a page.

Payment for reproduced issues may be made with Unesco Book Coupons in those countries in which the Book Coupons have been made available.

## BOEKBESPREKINGS

COETZEE, P. C., en ander. *Titelbeskrywing en alfabetisering vir die alfabetiese outeurs—en titel-katalogus*. Pretoria, Merensky Biblioteek, 1950. 58 bl.

MNR COETZEE is die bekende bibliotekaris van die Universiteit van Pretoria en die ander twee persone afdelings-hoofde in dieselfde biblioteek en terselfdertyd lektore in biblioteekkunde. Soos bekend, is die Universiteit reeds 'n hele aantal jare besig om ook studente in biblioteekwese te bekwaam en hierdie handleiding is in die eerste plek dan ook vir hulle bedoel. Dat dit egter ook groot waarde sal hê vir almal wat in biblioteekwese studeer—veral vir die student wat sy studies en eksamens in Afrikaans skrywe—spreek vanself. Die stukke is netjies getik en op 58 folio-bladsye afgerol en in stewige omslag ingebind. Die prys is egter nie vermeld nie.

Die samestellers het nie probeer om 'n handboek oor katalogisering saam te stel nie, maar het tog getrag om 'n betreklike breedvoerige beskrywing van die samestelling van die katalogus en die behandeling van die boek deur die verskillende stadiums te gee. Talle van die gewone probleme van katalogusbou word verstaanbaarder gemaak deur netjiese voorbeelde. Die samestellers erken dat hulle sterk beïnvloed is deur die werk van Dr. H. E. Greve, Directeur van die Openbare Leeszaal en Bibliotheek te 's-Gravenhage. Van sy terminologie is vryelik gebruik gemaak en baie van die insigte wat hier tot uiting kom, is aan hom te danke. Mnr Greve is 'n vooraanstaande bibliotekaris in Holland en dit het eerder die standaard van die publikasie verhoog. Daarby is gepoog om so na moontlik te bly aan die *A.L.A. Catalog Rules* van 1941, en hierdie kode is verkies bo die *Anglo-American Code* van 1908, omdat laasgenoemde meer wetenskaplik en vollediger sou wees.

Vir die gerief van persone wat nie met die Afrikaanse terminologie vertrou is nie en vir die erg germaanse vorm miskien sou terugdeins, is die Engelse benaming in hakies weergegee. Daar is ongelukkig talle errata in die hoofteks, maar gelukkig is dit na die voorberig op twee afsonderlike bladsye vermeld. Hierdie publikasie is 'n lofwaardige poging om 'n bydrae te lewer tot die skrale Afrikaanse biblioteek-literatuur en hoewel dit kwalik kan verwag word dat met alles 100 persent saamgestem sal word, kan die samestellers tog hartelik geluk gewens word met hulle poging. Afrikaanse studente in besonder sal hulle daarvoor baie dankbaar wees.

S. J. K.

CAMPBELL, J.I., comp. *A bibliography of mountains and mountaineering in Africa*. Cape Town, University of Cape Town, School of Librarianship, 1945 (publ. 1950) 40 leaves. Duplicated. 8s.

The arrangement of this bibliography is by author under large geographical areas, beginning with the Union of South Africa and ending with North Africa—Atlas mountains. An index at the end of the volume brings together all material on one mountain. The articles in the *Annual* of the Mountain Club of South Africa have been given separate entries. A "Select list of general books on mountaineering" is appended.

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### CHIVERS' REPRESENTATIVE

Messrs. Chivers of Bath inform us that Mr. A.H. Lifton, who has represented them on previous occasions, will shortly be making another tour of the Union. Mr. Lifton will welcome the opportunity of discussing bookbinding questions with South African librarians. He can be contacted at 339, Highland Road, Kensington, Johannesburg.

# LIBRARIES OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA WITH SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE<sup>1</sup>

E. A. BORLAND, *Transvaal Library Organizer*

I THINK that everybody present will agree with me that considerable improvement has taken place in the library position in the Union of South Africa during the past twenty years.

The Inter-Departmental Committee, which produced a report on the libraries of the Union in 1937, found fault with many conditions existing at that time. The chief reason for complaint was the almost total lack of free library facilities in this country. Since then a large number of subscription libraries have been converted to free libraries, caused mainly by the interest displayed in their welfare by the administrations of the various provinces.

Thanks to the advent of the Provincial Library Services, it will soon be possible to state that free library services are at the disposal of all European persons living in small towns, villages, and rural areas of the Transvaal and Orange Free State Provinces. Developments are taking place in the Cape and Natal too. Natal is at present considering the adoption of a provincial library scheme, more or less on the lines of the Transvaal and Orange Free State systems.

One of the most important events occurring recently, and one that will have far-reaching effects on the future of libraries in South Africa, has been the passing of the Cape Provincial Library Service Ordinance, 1949. We hope that, as a result of this Ordinance, the way will be made clear to the incorporation of the small subscription libraries in the Cape Province in a free provincial library service. One of the most important sections in this ordinance, and one which should pave the way for more rapid development, is that relating to separate library services for non-Europeans. The Ordinance specifies that "under both the Provincial Library service and any free municipal library service in an urban library area separate facilities shall be provided for Europeans and non-Europeans" (Section 13).

As far as I have been able to discover, there are now 135 public libraries in the Cape Province; 27 in Natal; 20 in the Orange Free State; and 26 in the Transvaal. All of this development indicates a quite considerable interest in

<sup>1</sup> Presidential address to the Annual Conference of the South African Library Association, Grahamstown, September, 1950.

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libraries on the part of the public on the one hand, and of governmental agencies (including municipalities) on the other.

There have been great developments in other library fields as well.

All of our university libraries have improved considerably since 1937.

Our school libraries are improving. Two provinces, Transvaal and Natal, have appointed supervisors of school libraries for their respective areas. Natal should be congratulated also on the adoption of a plan for "war memorial libraries" in its schools, whereby schools are assisted by the Province with special grants for library buildings, some of which may cost about £4,000. Natal has now a few of the finest school libraries I have seen in this country.

Developments in the field of special libraries have been equally satisfactory. According to the *Directory of scientific, technical and medical libraries in the Union of South Africa*, drawn up recently by Misses Mews and Krige (now Mrs de Wit), there are seventy special libraries in these fields in the country. Thirty of these are attached to government departments. The others are attached to universities and public and private institutions.

It is interesting to turn also to a list drawn up recently by the Chief Librarian of the government departmental libraries, Mr S. J. Kritzinger. According to this list there are seventy-six government departmental libraries and three provincial library systems in the country.

If the Government were to appoint a committee to take stock of our present library position, this committee would probably come to the conclusion that, although the country may have progressed in the number of its library institutions and information services to the public established since 1937, at the same time the quality of service is very uneven. Some libraries have improved their services; others have not. In answer to certain public demands, some libraries may have exceeded their own functions and now overlap with those of others.

I would like to focus your attention this morning more especially on our "national library service" represented, as I see it, by the two National Libraries—the State Library in Pretoria, and the South African Public Library in Cape Town, the Library of Parliament, the two other libraries receiving copyright privileges (the Bloemfontein Public Library and the Library of the Natal Society, Pietermaritzburg) and seventy-six government departmental libraries. The work that is being done by these various institutions is too well known to you to require detailing here. The question that arises in my mind is whether such a sparsely populated country as the Union of South Africa should be served by so many units. Admittedly many of the departmental libraries listed by Mr Kritzinger are very small indeed, but even so their existence seems to me to indicate that the national library services of this country could be differently co-ordinated, and should be better related to the system of public libraries, including the provincial library systems.

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Libraries serving the public may be classified roughly as follows :

- (a) Public Libraries
  - (1) Municipally supported free libraries
  - (2) Subscription libraries (some receiving Municipal and Provincial aid, as in the Cape Province)
  - (3) Provincial library systems
- (b) National Libraries
  - (1) State Library, Pretoria
  - (2) South African Public Library, Cape Town
- (c) University and Special Libraries (not including government departmental libraries)
- (d) Government departmental libraries
- (e) Government libraries not under control of departments (e.g. Library of Parliament, Provincial Council Libraries)
- (f) School and college libraries
- (g) Libraries serving non-Europeans

In taking stock of present library services, the existence of national organizations that assist or stimulate the use of library services should be recognised as integral parts of the general informational and educational services of the country, and not as separate entities which concern nobody but themselves and the few officials organizing them. Such organizations may include the Adult Education Organization, the Archives, the Film Bureau, the State Information Office and the bureaux attached to various government and semi-government institutions. All of these organizations have been called into being to meet certain public demands, but here, too, it is possible that much overlapping and unnecessary competition exists between the various institutions.

In looking at a library service for the whole nation, I think that there should be such a degree of integration and co-ordination of effort that our various library and information organizations are fully effective within their own fields. In travelling around the country one is amazed to find how many members of the public are unaware of our library and informational services ; and it is not only the public in general that seems to be uninstructed : librarians, heads of educational and other public institutions, teachers, students, research workers, and other persons, do not know of library facilities that have been created for their use. Because influential heads of agencies are ignorant of what our public, national, and governmental libraries are attempting to do, they establish new library organizations, sometimes duplicating services that exist



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even within their own towns. In the past, government departmental libraries regarded themselves as isolated institutions. Now that the government departments have a Chief Librarian, matters are becoming better co-ordinated; but there are still many government libraries that insist upon preserving separate identities, looking with horror upon amalgamation with other libraries, or even accepting assistance in book-preparation, cataloguing, classification and other technical services from larger library organizations.

The reasons why the librarians of such organizations fear amalgamation are difficult to fathom. Clearly they would not lose in status. I understand that sometimes the leading officials of a department express a sentimental attachment to their own departmental libraries and do not desire co-operation with other organizations, regardless of whether they are being used properly or even though amalgamation may be a matter of public interest. Of course, our general governmental division into Union Government on the one hand and four provincial administrations on the other, gives rise to a confusion of interest on this particular issue.

Turning now to our national library services, we are proud to proclaim to the world that we have two National Libraries, one at Cape Town, in the shape of the South African Public Library, and the other at Pretoria, the State Library.

Looking closer at both of these institutions, we find that neither is really a national library, inasmuch as it does not draw its funds solely, or almost entirely, as should be with a national library, from the state coffers. These libraries have the status only of "state-aided institutions", and have no direct connexion, nor any specific relation to, the government departmental libraries. Instead of the government departmental libraries being subordinated to these libraries, as I think they should in a properly run national library service, the government libraries, departmental and otherwise, actually compete with them at various points.

I believe it is necessary in our country of large distances to possess two national library organizations, one correlating governmental and public libraries situated in the Cape Province and South West Africa, (i.e. a national library at Cape Town); and another at Pretoria, to co-ordinate the efforts of institutions in the Transvaal, the Orange Free State and Natal. Of course there should be a link between the two national libraries, productive of economical working.

At present each of our national libraries serves the public of the city in which it is situated, as would any public library. This type of public library service, in my opinion, should be carried out by the local authority with or without assistance from the state.

To reorganize our national library services along more reasonable lines, it seems clear to me that the cities of Cape Town and Pretoria will have to organize separate municipal free libraries paid for mainly out of municipal funds (as do

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the cities of Johannesburg and Durban), divorced from the national libraries but still on speaking terms with them. The national libraries should then concentrate upon their proper function of serving the nation as a whole. There would be no necessity for the closing down of essential departmental libraries; nor would there be many changes of locality of present bookstocks, except that there might be a better distribution of bookstocks between library buildings, so that the seldom used material is housed in special stackbuildings instead of reference and reading rooms.

Why, for instance, should not the Library of Parliament be amalgamated with its sister across the street, the South African Public Library? Why cannot the government libraries in Pretoria be integrated with the State Library? Surely our present seemingly chaotic conditions can be improved upon. We have only to look at our efforts at library co-operation to see the many shortcomings resulting from the present position.

The most important co-operation venture that we now have is the Inter-Library loan scheme run by the State Library in Pretoria. This department is run very economically and effectively, and the thanks of the whole of the public of Southern Africa are due to the State Library for operating the system, and also to the libraries which are so willing to lend their books to readers in other parts of the country.

There are still a few libraries, however, that do not wholeheartedly support the inter-library loan scheme. One or two libraries are unwilling to co-operate if they know that their books will be used by readers attached to small public libraries situated in country areas. They do not refuse on the ground that the books may be lost and not paid for. On this ground they do not express any fear. Their objection, astounding as it may seem, is that if people want to carry out research they should travel to the large libraries to do so. As if it were not possible for a person to read and examine a book unless seated in a large library, I am well aware of the fact that the person who wants to carry out research on a particular topic should personally visit the larger libraries in order to make a first-hand acquaintance with the extent of the resources of those libraries and to list material that should be consulted; but having done that, and having determined what material should be read, why may not the reader return to his country home with his pens and paper and ask that some of the books he wants to consult in detail be sent to him through the inter-library loan system?

I realize that many of the books asked for by the research student are scarce and difficult to replace. To examine these, of course, one might very well expect the reader to travel from his home to the public library owning them. Even so, why should he not be allowed to travel to the nearest library possessing a well supervised reference department, there to consult the books that have been borrowed on his behalf from other public libraries? The only legitimate reasons



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I can think of against this course would be firstly that the books or papers are in such poor condition that they would be damaged by handling, and secondly on account of extreme rarity. These difficulties could be overcome by greater use of photographic copying apparatus in our libraries, and especially in our National Libraries.

Microfilming newspapers is in its first infancy within this country, but it seems to me that one or two of our larger libraries are going to considerable expense with the filming of local newspapers, without informing other larger libraries of what they are doing. At present, on account of the high cost, there does not seem to be much danger of having the same newspaper filmed twice by two different libraries. There should, however, be some central bureau which records the whereabouts of films of newspapers and books, to which enquiries could be sent by libraries possessing microfilm readers. This bureau should also record work in progress. It seems to me that the obvious library to carry out this task is the State Library, especially as it is building up the Union Catalogue for South Africa. While on the subject of microfilming, I would like to suggest that each provincial library system should possess microfilm reading apparatus that may be lent out to the small public libraries if necessary; and that our two National Libraries be expected to lend microfilm readers on request to the middle-sized libraries of the country, as well as to small institutional libraries that may not be able to afford to purchase them.

At present there is not much call for the use of microfilms, but this will surely grow as films and reading apparatus become more readily available.

Coming now to the Union Catalogue, I would like to express my admiration of the way in which this catalogue is being built up at such little cost. The Union Catalogue is organized by the State Library. Libraries are asked to send to the Union Catalogue duplicate author cards indicating their non-fiction holdings. The most usual way for a library to do this is to make out an extra card when a book is catalogued, and, when there is a sufficient number of these cards, to forward them to the State Library. In addition to assembling entries in this way, the State Library sends cataloguers to institutional libraries which do not possess large cataloguing staffs, for the purpose of making duplicates of entries for insertion in the Union Catalogue. In these ways the Union Catalogue has assembled more than 250,000 entries.

The information contained in the Union Catalogue is at the disposal of all libraries, and it is particularly useful to libraries using the inter-library loan scheme. Its success depends upon the support of all the libraries in South Africa; this unfortunately, it does not receive. Some librarians, believing that more scientific methods could be used for the reproduction of entries, would rather wait years and even decades for expensive photographic equipment to be introduced into our poverty stricken libraries, rather than copy entries manually. Other librarians

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are indifferent to the use that may be made of the Union Catalogue, and, while they participate in the inter-library loan scheme, they are not prepared to assist in a practical manner by sending additions to the Union Catalogue.

On the other hand, the idea of the Union Catalogue has so "caught-on" in some quarters that the work is in danger of being duplicated. An attempt is being made to establish in Pretoria a separate joint catalogue of the holdings of the libraries attached to government departments. This seems to me to be a very unnecessary piece of overlapping. I do not know where in Pretoria this joint catalogue is to be housed, but unless it is housed in the State Library and is to be part and parcel of the State Library Union Catalogue, then I believe that much effort will be wasted by libraries that will be expected to supply entries to two joint catalogues situated within the same city. Librarians who want to consult the Union Catalogue will have their work doubled. The essential feature of the Union Catalogue—that of being only one catalogue to consult—will be lost. A librarian who wishes to know the whereabouts of a book will have to consult both the State Library Union Catalogue and the Union Departmental joint catalogue. It may be argued that the government departments, being governmental, should have a separate joint catalogue, and that, as the State Library is only a "state-aided institution", it is therefore a completely separate organization and needs a separate catalogue. Such an argument seems pointless to me. That such overlapping of effort can possibly exist is a very sad reflection upon our present library system, and just one more good reason why our National Library services should be properly co-ordinated.

I would now like to point to another type of overlapping which should be removed. The country dweller in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State is indeed fortunate in the number of sources he may tap when he wants to borrow a book. Suppose he lives in a little country village. He may borrow books from the Provincial Library service by joining his local public library. He may also borrow books upon application directly from the State Library, the Union Department of Education, the Agricultural Department library, and, if he happens to be a teacher, from the provincial education departmental library as well. On some occasions a reader who wants a certain book sends enquiries for it simultaneously to three or four of the libraries I have mentioned. If the request cannot immediately be fulfilled by the library concerned, it is passed on to the State Library and the State Library may gain the impression that there are three or four urgent requests for the same book, whereas they all emanate from the same person. The machinery of three or four libraries is set going to answer a request that could easily be handled by one agency. This sort of thing happens not every day, but frequently enough to be noticeable. The trouble arises out of the present lack of co-ordination between public and governmental libraries. I am not an advocate of bottlenecks, but it seems to me that loans of books to members of

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the public should be effected through the public library system and that the governmental libraries should lend books to public libraries rather than to individuals. The cost of running the nation's library service would be considerably reduced by avoiding this type of overlapping and competition between libraries. It is argued that the public library service does not cover the whole of the country. This is true, even though the Transvaal and Orange Free State Provinces are being served by Provincial Library Services, and plans for better service are being developed in Natal and the Cape, coverage is far from being complete; but refusal on the part of the government libraries to serve individual readers, except through the local public library service, would help to hasten the day when complete coverage is obtained.

Those readers who are out of touch with libraries at present could obtain their books through one of the National Libraries instead of directly from a departmental library. In fact it seems to me that we have superfluity of library agencies serving the public, causing high administrative costs and confused service.

Another peculiar thing in our library organization in South Africa is the effect produced by the Copyright Act.

In accordance with this act, publishers send free copies of their publications to five libraries in South Africa: the State Library, Pretoria; the South African Public Library, Cape Town; the Bloemfontein Public Library; the Library of the Natal Society, Pietermaritzburg; and now, added last year, the Library of Parliament, Cape Town. The British Museum Library, London, is also entitled to receive copyright material under our South African Copyright Act.

I believe that it is necessary, for the sake of posterity, to preserve one or two copies of all printed works published in this country, and that the task of preservation should be the function of our National Library system, with a fair measure of co-operation from the Archives system. At present there is nothing in the Copyright Act that compels recipient libraries to preserve any material received, and, in fact, both the Bloemfontein Public Library and the Natal Society Library have been discarding most of the publications they receive under the Act. The Natal Society Library has not even bothered to preserve a complete file of the *Natal Witness*, the newspaper published in the City of Pietermaritzburg.

The libraries of Bloemfontein and Pietermaritzburg possess neither the funds to administer copyright departments properly, nor the space in which this material may be housed. If they are to continue receiving copyright material, these defects should be remedied.

Arguments for and against having five copyright libraries in this thinly populated country have often been heard. Weight of opinion seems to incline towards the belief that there should be only two copyright libraries, one for the north and one for the south. Amalgamation of the Library of Parliament with the

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National Library at Cape Town would remove the present overlap whereby two libraries, literally within a few hundred yards of each other, both receive copy-right privileges.

I suggest to you that these difficulties and many others I could mention, would be entirely removed by the re-organization of our national library services.

While we have two capitals we should perhaps possess two national libraries, one situated in the south at Cape Town, and the other in the north at Pretoria. These institutions should be proper national libraries, deriving all their revenue from the Union Government. At present, the Cape Town library obtains part of its revenue from subscriptions, and the Pretoria library from the Pretoria Municipality. It is obvious to everybody concerned that these libraries are unable to do their national library work properly, being torn as they are between municipal and national library interests.

In order to bring about better national library services, I would like to suggest that all of the government libraries, whether departmental or otherwise, as well as the two national libraries, be placed under the tutelage of a National Library Board.

This Board would be appointed by the Minister of Education Arts and Science, and should be representative of the present national library and governmental libraries. Committees managing individual libraries would be subject to the Board. We could then expect better understanding and co-ordination of all our libraries. The Board would also be expected to ensure that the library system was properly used by correlated organizations such as Archives, and the Adult Education section of the Union Education Department. A National Library Board was suggested in the 1937 report, but has never been called into existence.

Many practical difficulties would have to be overcome before our national library services could be properly organized. Acts of parliament would have to be amended; the municipalities of our capital cities would have to establish public libraries for their areas; government departments would have to revise their present library arrangements. I believe that these difficulties can be overcome. What we need now is a "blue print" for a truly national library service; perhaps the government could be induced to appoint an inter-departmental committee to examine the position and to produce this "blue print" for the benefit of South Africa.

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### SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ADDRESS

The address of the Secretariat of the South African Library Association has swung south and is now P.O. Box 6, Rondebosch, Cape.

## BOEKBESPREKINGS

UNION of South Africa, Weather bureau. *Bibliography of regional meteorological literature, vol. 1, Southern Africa 1486-1948*; compiled by R.J. Venter. Pretoria, Government printer, [1950] 412p. Typescript reproduced by photolithography. English and Afrikaans. 21s.

MR. VENTER has put a very great deal of work into this bibliography and South African librarians who received the various lists he sent out will find a particular interest in seeing the results now published. The entries are arranged in classified order (U.D.C.) and there is an author index and an index to the classification (English only, together with tables of the classification. In the actual entries Mr. Venter has placed the regional number in front of the subject number, for instance, *Farming opportunities in the Union of South Africa* is under (68)551.582 instead of the more usual 551.582(68). As the entries are actually arranged under the subject number (e.g. the above example is under 551.582) the purpose of reversing the usual order is not quite clear and it would be interesting to know what prompted it. The annotations are useful and commendably brief. The typescript was presumably made on a Varsity and reproduced by the Government Printer, and it is an interesting example of the "near print" methods drawing nearer in South Africa.

Bibliographies of this detailed type are badly needed in this country, and meteorologists here and overseas will be grateful to the South African Weather Bureau for undertaking the very great deal of work involved in this compilation. We understand that a considerable amount of material for a similar bibliography on Antarctica has already been collected, and it is hoped that the response to, and criticism of, this first volume will assist the Weather Bureau in the Antarctica publication.

VOWLES, Margaret, comp. *The city of Pietermaritzburg, a bibliography*. Cape Town, University of Cape Town, School of librarianship, 1946 (publ. 1950) v, 26 leaves. Duplicated. 7s.

This bibliography covers material dealing with Pietermaritzburg mainly from 1838-1910, as it was during that period that the city was important as the capital of the republic, and, later, the colony of Natal. The compiler has, however, included some material covering the period after 1910. In her Preface she mentions that the South African Public Library was the only library available for research in the compilation of this bibliography "and thus much valuable material in the Mendelssohn collection in the Library of Parliament and in the Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg, has had to be excluded." The bibliography is arranged under the following main subject heads: General, descriptive and guide books; History and biography; Government and administration of the colony of Natal as directed from the capital, 1845-1910; Newspapers and periodicals; Municipal affairs; Pamphlets issued by the Pietermaritzburg Publicity Association since 1910; Photographs and sketches.

SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. *Library work as a career*, 1950. 4, 4p. English and Afrikaans. (Copies obtainable from the Sub-Librarian, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.)

This leaflet was compiled for the Administrative Council of the South African Library Association by the Committee of the Southern Transvaal Branch and should prove extremely useful to those young people thinking of taking up library work in this country. They are, in timely fashion, warned:

"Don't aim at becoming a librarian *unless* :

- (a) You like people and feel you could develop tact, courtesy and a friendly manner.
- (b) You like books.
- (c) You have an accurate mind and enjoy being exact in your knowledge.
- (d) You can stand a fair amount of fatigue as the work can be very strenuous."

This is, indeed, sound sense. There are brief sections on Kinds of libraries, What the librarian does, Degree courses, Training, Conditions of employment, Salaries and opportunities. The salary scales mentioned may possibly be thought by librarians outside Johannesburg to have a certain golden-city gleam, but that may be all to the good if we take the long view. The Southern Transvaal Committee is to be congratulated on its work in producing such a handy summary for South Africa.



## THE LIBRARY IN THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY TO-DAY<sup>1</sup>

R.F.M. IMMELMAN, *Librarian, University of Cape Town*

ALTHOUGH no country in the world has as yet succeeded in establishing a completely adequate library coverage, yet the fact remains that the public library which is truly a people's institution, is, at its best, an integral part of the community from which it draws its support and into which it pours its resources. Public libraries should offer opportunities for : 1. enlightened citizenship; 2. continuing education ; 3. intellectual and cultural development. Never before have public libraries been so conscious of their potentialities as educational catalytic agents and never before have they striven so systematically and conscientiously to realize these potentialities.<sup>2</sup> As far as South Africa is concerned, the full development of the potentialities of libraries still lies very much in the future, yet in the countries where western civilization has taken root most deeply, there libraries to-day are doing much to fulfil their basic objectives, viz., of providing communities with education, information, aesthetic appreciation, facilities for help with research, opportunities for the kind of recreation to be had from books.<sup>3</sup> In an age of widespread literacy, increasing leisure time and democratic responsibilities, the public library has been evolved as an institution for providing opportunities for citizens. Just as other community services became specialized and centralized, so the public library has become the community's depository of knowledge, information and enlightenment, in so far as these are contained in library materials.<sup>4</sup>

In dealing with the subject "The Library in the Life of the Community To-day", I want to devote some attention first to ascertaining:—

### I. WHAT IS THE PRESENT POSITION OF THE LIBRARY ?

#### *The Extent of Library Use and the Nature of its Users*

In a paper as limited as this must necessarily be, I cannot hope to deal with the subject in great detail, and therefore I propose to draw my data chiefly from two sources, one English and one American. The English source is entitled *Reading*

<sup>1</sup> Paper read at the Annual Conference of the South African Library Association, Grahamstown, September, 1950.

<sup>2</sup> Long, Fern: *Public Library as a force for popular education*. Cleveland, Ohio., 1949 Typescript p. 18.

<sup>3</sup> Long, Fern, *op.cit.*, p. 19.

<sup>4</sup> Berelson, Bernard. *The Library's Public. A report of the Public Library inquiry of the Social Science Research Council*. Includes the findings of the national survey for the Public Library Inquiry by the Survey Research Center of the University of Michigan. New York, Columbia University press, 1949. p. 5.

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in *Tottenham*, a report on a survey conducted by Mass Observation to ascertain as much as possible about the reading habits, in relation to other activities, of the people of Tottenham, a London borough, and in particular to find out their attitudes towards the use of public libraries. The American source is *The Library's Public* by Bernard Berelson, a report of the Public Library Inquiry which was undertaken by the Social Science Research Council in U.S.A. at the request of the American Library Association in 1946-49, with the financial support of the Carnegie Corporation. The Inquiry was intended to be "a thorough and comprehensive study of the American free public library... as an approach in social, cultural and human terms of the extent to which libraries are achieving their objectives... and of the library's potential and actual contribution to society".<sup>1</sup> This particular report is one of 7 or 8 volumes to be published on the findings of the investigation, carried on under the directorship of Dr. Robert Leigh. It is based on an analysis of all studies of library book use by adults and users in the last 20 years and an additional national survey.

Although these two studies are concerned with libraries in England and America, yet many of their observations are thought-provoking and give one a clearer idea of what the public library is achieving; therefore it follows that, for South African librarians, their value lies in suggesting mistakes that may be avoided or ways in which, in this country, libraries can be guided in their efforts to realise their objectives. It is dangerous to generalize from particular studies, but yet there are some conclusions which are just as applicable to libraries in South Africa as elsewhere. In order to get a clearer idea of the nature of library use, my first question is: what is the extent of book use?

### *Extent of General Book Use*

Berelson<sup>2</sup> maintains that 25-30 per cent of adults read one or more books per month; 60-70 per cent read magazines more or less regularly and 85-90 per cent read one or more newspapers regularly. In Tottenham, reading is the third favourite of one sixth of the population.<sup>3</sup> There it was found that reading habits depend on education and social class. Reading is given as the favourite hobby by 3 in 10 middle class people; 2 in 10 skilled workers; 1 in 10 unskilled workers. People with young children display very little interest in reading. Although many people give preference to reading, it does not always mean that they actually read books, but possibly magazines and newspapers only. Half the people in Tottenham say they never read books. It was found that most people read newspapers, and that all read the Sunday papers, but that magazines are read

<sup>1</sup> Berelson, *op.cit.*, p. vi.

<sup>2</sup> Berelson, *op.cit.*, p. 6.

<sup>3</sup> Mass Observation: *Reading in Tottenham. Interim report on the survey carried out by Mass Observation on behalf of the Tottenham Borough Council.* Duplicated. (1949). pp. 3-7.



## THE LIBRARY IN THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY TO-DAY

chiefly by middle class people. One third of all the people read magazines, but two thirds of the middle class. It is also more generally found among young people, being a habit which decreases with age. As regards the reading of books, half the people of Tottenham read books : 9 in 10 of middle class people ; 8 in 10 of age group 16-20 years ; 7 in 10 of unmarried group, with secondary education. Men and women read books to the same extent. It appears that there is a clear decline in book use as people get older.

Berelson ascertained that book users listen to the radio, go to see films and read more than people who do not read books. Income level, education, general cultural alertness and the availability of various mass media of communication are all factors contributing to the fact that book users in any community are found to be among the prominent members of that group which is interested in intellectual matters generally,<sup>1</sup> and which also includes the more critically minded people in that community.

Having attempted to gain some general idea, sketchy as my outline has to be, of who constitute the book users in any community, this brings me to the next question, viz., who use the public library ?

### *Use Public Library*

Berelson found that, on the basis of a three-year registration period, 25 per cent of adults and 50 per cent of children were library readers. But if by user is meant, more specifically, someone who has used the library during the preceding month and within the past year, then users are 18 per cent of adults and 50 per cent of children. An independent national survey found that 10 per cent of adults used public libraries during the preceding month and 8 per cent of adults used public libraries from a month to a year ago. Berelson<sup>2</sup> maintains that the 10 per cent of adults and 33 per cent of children who use the public library at least once a month, are the groups of active library users.

In Tottenham it was found that just under one quarter of the population, or one half of the avowed book readers, were members of the public library. The highest proportion of any social class to be registered borrowers were 49 per cent of the middle class. Membership drops sharply with class, being three times more common among the middle class than among the unskilled working class.<sup>3</sup> The second most enthusiastic group about library membership was that of the people aged 16-20 years, of whom 42 per cent belonged to a library. Men and women belong to the library to about the same extent, but women in jobs

<sup>1</sup> Berelson, *op.cit.*, p. 8-9.

<sup>2</sup> Berelson, *op.cit.*, p. 10.

<sup>3</sup> *Reading in Tottenham*, p. 18.

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more often than housewives. There is a decided drop in library membership with marriage and with age, as was the case with book reading generally. Library members then, like book users generally, were predominantly young, middle class and well educated. In the economic and educational groups in which there are few readers, there are fewer public library members. Analysis by sex shows little variation. It was found that :

<i>Group</i>	<i>Per cent of general readers belonging to public library</i>
Secondary education	56
Elementary education	41
Middle class	53
Skilled workers	42
Unskilled workers	38

The most striking correlation revealed was that between library membership and the distance at which people lived from public libraries, though this distance factor made no difference to the proportion of people in the general population who were book users, yet the effect on library membership was :

<i>Distance from public library</i>	<i>Per cent of group belonging to Library</i>
Less than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile	28
Between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$	25
Over $\frac{1}{2}$ mile	11

That means, that people living over half a mile from the public library abandoned membership to an extent that puts this group lowest on the membership list, lower than the poorest or least educated.<sup>1</sup> This shows that distance from the library is a very real factor in library use, as most practising librarians know from experience, and one that librarians have to take into very serious account in planning the location of library services and one that necessitates the possibility of multiplying the number of service outlets in the community.

We come now to the problem: to what extent does the public library provide the reading matter of its community?

<sup>1</sup> *Reading in Tottenham*, p. 18-19.

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### *Source of Reading Matter*

People get reading matter from a variety of sources and Berelson reckons that

<i>Source</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Children</i>
Public library provides	25 per cent reading matter	25
Borrowed from friends	20	5
Bought for home collection	35	20
Commercial library	8	2
Other	10	8
School library	—	40

That is, the public library provides one quarter of the reading matter which is read by adults and is one of the three chief sources, which are purchase, public library and loans from friends. Berelson calculates that in England and Germany the position appears to be as follows :<sup>1</sup>

<i>Source</i>	<i>Britain</i>	<i>Germany</i>
Public library	32	5
Friends	21	40
Purchase	27	25
Commercial library	20	—
Other	—	10

His conclusion is that, the larger the home collection, the more use is made of the public library, because people with a private collection are generally more book-conscious and are better educated. 27 Per cent of library users also make use of the commercial library, but 73 per cent of them avail themselves solely of the public library.

In Tottenham, most readers procure their books from the public library.<sup>2</sup> All groups say they use the public library more often than any other source of reading matter. The two exceptions are : shopworkers and people who live more than half a mile from the library. One fifth of the people buy books : but male readers buy three times as many books as women, who buy less than any other group. The middle class buy more than the workers and people with secondary education more than those with elementary. People who live far from the public library buy more books and borrow more from friends than any other group. It is also very noticeable that the largest users of commercial libraries are all people who live further than half a mile away and that the further they live the more they use the commercial library. Furthermore, people with elementary education make three times as much use of it as those with secondary education.

<sup>1</sup> Berelson, *op. cit.*, p. 11-15.

<sup>2</sup> *Reading in Tottenham*, p. 14.

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Older people and unskilled workers also make more use of it than younger people or middle class people. Those living within a quarter of a mile of the library use the library four times as much as the commercial library. It is important to realise that the highest use of the commercial library is found among those groups who in general make the least use of books and that the number of serious library users becomes significant among groups among whom there are in general many readers.<sup>1</sup>

### *Other Uses of the Public Library*

*For information.* Most people try other sources of information, e.g., friends or newspapers, etc., before they would think of going to the public library. The library, in fact, says Berelson,<sup>2</sup> has little reality to many people as a source of information. In Tottenham it was found that one tenth of the people knew that they could get reference information by telephone and one fifth that they could get it by personal enquiry, but half the people had no idea if they could get help or not. The least aware of library facilities were housewives, whereas people who are most correctly informed about library services are the highest in the heavier reading groups.<sup>3</sup> Berelson found that 80 per cent of non-fiction and 50 per cent of fiction users asked librarians for help or guidance on the selection of reading matter.

The use of library catalogues varies with the size of the library and the extent of its reference and information services. 4 per cent of the users consulted the catalogue often and 45 per cent had used it sometimes. People who consulted the catalogue had more education than non-users,<sup>4</sup> i.e., had learnt to use it in school libraries.

### *Reasons for the Use of Public Libraries*

Most people (two fifths of the whole sample)<sup>5</sup> go to libraries to use the lending department; two fifths to read newspapers and magazines. Thereafter, in descending order of frequency: to consult the reference library, then the children's library. Single people used all services more than the married. Men use the reference library and newspapers more than women. Housewives use newspapers less than any other group and, with the unskilled workers, are the least frequent users of reference libraries.

75 per cent of the users report they can get what they want from the public library, but 20 per cent report only partial satisfaction. Inadequate service to

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 17.

<sup>2</sup> Berelson, *op.cit.*, p. 17-18.

<sup>3</sup> *Reading in Tottenham*, p. 17.

<sup>4</sup> Berelson, *op.cit.*, p. 78.

<sup>5</sup> *Reading in Tottenham*, p. 41.

## THE LIBRARY IN THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY TO-DAY

one quarter of the library's users, is a serious matter. The majority of the unsatisfied demands result from inadequate book stock : either an insufficient number of copies or an inadequate variety of books.

Lack of knowledge of the library is at the root of the reaction to the public library by people in general : only 40 per cent knew that the library offers services other than book lending ; 25 per cent—35 per cent of residents in many places did not know of the location of the nearest library branch. The prevailing sentiment is that the public library is symbolically a good thing for a city to have as a civic institution or monument for other people to use<sup>1</sup> ; one twentieth of the people in Tottenham asserted that books should be easier to find ; one fifth of the people said there should be different kinds of books in the library to what they found ; one fifth of those living more than half a mile away want more convenient libraries. The middle class asked for different or newer bookstock less often than any other group—and they were the heaviest users.

Up to this point I have dealt with *What is the present position of the public library*, that is, *the extent of library use and the nature of its users*, by asking :

1. What is the extent of bookreading generally ?
2. Who use the public library ?
3. To what extent does the public library furnish the reading matter of its community ?
4. Other uses of the public library ?
5. Reasons for the use of the library.

By drawing attention to some of the outstanding features of the Berelson and Tottenham studies, I have tried to show what data a librarian in South Africa would need to watch, in order to become more intimately acquainted with his community and to be able to develop more purposeful programmes of library service. Naturally I could only sketch the bare bones of these studies and so inevitably some citations seem to be vague generalizations. For details I would refer the interested reader to the original publications themselves. It is truly significant that Link and Hopf,<sup>2</sup> as well as Campbell and Metzner<sup>3</sup> in other recent studies, although they dealt with the reading problem from other angles, yet come to fairly similar conclusions. The sociological approach to the problem of library use is of immense importance for the future of our profession, even if present findings are as yet rather fragmentary in character.

(To be continued)

<sup>1</sup> Berelson, *op.cit.*, p. 18.

<sup>2</sup> Link, H.C. and Hopf, H.A. *People and books, a study of reading and book-buying habits*. New York, Book manufacturers institute, 1946.

<sup>3</sup> Campbell, A. and Metzner, C.A. *Public use of the library and other sources of information*. Ann Arbor, University of Michigan, 1950 (Institute for Social research).

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### SOME "DON'TS" FOR LIBRARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Although the following hints are designed for newly appointed American trustees they are of sufficiently wide an application to be useful here :

Don't on your own give orders to the librarian or any staff member. Official orders emanate from at least a quorum (three members) of the board at regular meeting. This applies equally to all members of the board, including the president.

Don't exclude the librarian from a board meeting, unless the meeting is to discuss his salary or other personal matters. If an impasse has been reached between librarian and board, attempt to iron it out, failing that, hire a new librarian.

Don't allow staff members (other than the head librarian) to bring grievances directly to you or the board. Grievances should be reported to the head librarian who will settle them, or bring them to the attention of the board if policy be involved.

Don't listen personally to complaints from the public. Complaints should normally be channeled to the entire board through the head librarian. Should the complaint concern the head librarian, the complaining citizen should either meet with the board or present his case in writing at a regular meeting.

Don't hire in the library, in any capacity, someone related to you. It will eventually embarrass both board and librarian, and seriously lower staff morale.

Don't individually or as a board dictate details of internal management to the librarian. He is the executive and will translate your policy into action in light of his professional training and experience. Even if the librarian fails to carry out board policy, the board should still refuse to dictate—but it may then be justified in seeking a new librarian.

*Library Journal* 1st February, 1950. Reprinted from the August 1949 *Florida Public Library Newsletter*.

### SURFEIT OF WORDS

The little book-worm, friend of those  
Who suffer from unending prose,  
Will eat his words without false pride,  
And gathers in his small inside  
The learning of the centuries  
Through countless lunches and high teas.  
With equal relish he digests  
A pamphlet or a palimpsest,  
A book of verse, a novelette,  
The works of Shakespeare or Debrett.  
With appetite unsatisfied  
He dines off Jekyll, sups on Hyde ;  
Eats up the very Book of Fate,  
And never knows it till too late.

*Scotsman*, 15 August, 1950.



# AFDELING SPESIALE BIBLIOTHEKE

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## MUSIC IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY : SOME PROBLEMS

MARGARET WHITELEY, *Johannesburg Public Library*

ONE WOULD think that enough had been written on this and most other public library problems without a mere tyro plunging into the fray, but, in actual fact, music does offer some perplexities a little different from those in other fields and South Africa in particular has special troubles of its own.

Music is tiresome, from a library point of view : it is comparatively costly to buy because so troublesome to engrave, horribly flimsy when bought, and even more horribly expensive to bind.

When it comes to selection, difficulties crowd upon one. Just what is "music" anyway ? Some people confine themselves to what is usually known as "classical" music and refer to the rest as "this modern stuff" ; others earnestly desire modern music by serious composers but bar "jazz", "swing" and the like, while the jazz enthusiasts in the community quite probably outnumber the two previous classes considerably—not that I have any figures to support that statement. Then there is the uneasy borderland of what the wireless calls "light music". If we buy cowboy stories and thrillers for the lending libraries, should we not buy fairyland fantasies and pizzicato polkas and pleasantly sentimental songs for our music libraries ? Where is the line to be drawn between "light" and "serious" music ? Sullivan and German we feel quite happy about, and of course we must buy the operas and the dances from *Henry VIII* and *Merrie England* ; but are we to turn down Jerome Kern, Noel Coward and Ivor Novello, all competent craftsmen in a similar field but less hallowed by time ?

Another difficulty in selection lies in the varying degree of technical ability of the music borrower. The amateur players must be catered for, and so must the professional musician who has every right to demand tougher fare. This gulf between amateur and professional is troublesome. In other fields the specia-



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list is often served partly by specialised libraries, being passed on by the public libraries to university or institution collections. The practising musician is seldom so fortunate, and accordingly may ask the public library for advanced modern works of great technical difficulty which will be of interest only to a relatively small section of his public and yet will absorb a large proportion of the available money. In South Africa where our European population is small and the professional musicians correspondingly few, this means that the problem of holding a balance between different sections of the public is a very real one.

Other difficulties arise in connexion with different arrangements of the same musical work. When an important book has been bought in English and in the original tongue if this was not English, the book-selector can tick it off his list. But music, once provided in the form in which it was written, is not done with. There are the piano or violin and piano arrangements of orchestral works, the transcriptions of violin works for violin or cello (and vice versa), the songs written for one voice, transposed for another, and so on. How far should one multiply transcriptions of popular works? It is a matter of opinion whether they are musically desirable or not, and texts on book selection urge one to avoid personal prejudices.

Modern music is another problem. One cannot buy everything; far too much is rolling off the presses. Important composers must clearly be represented and, outside a few of acknowledged reputation, who is to say who they are? Musical history is full of critics who have been proved lamentably wrong by posterity. How much of what I select to-day will prove a thorn in the flesh to some librarian, yet unborn, who will in thirty years' time brush it aside wearily as of no more than historical interest?

So often, of course, it would be easier to make decisions if we were not so far from the music-publishing centres. Editions are still, owing to paper difficulties, small and often quickly sold out. Yet reviews lag behind publication, and not everything gets reviewed. New editions of the classics—shall we buy this or that, or wait and see if we can collect an old and tried edition secondhand? Transcriptions—they can be good or bad, and, if bad, one may be better without them. If only we could see a copy, but there is not likely to be one available locally, particularly under the existing import conditions. Critical reviews may differ widely in their estimate of the worth of a performance. Yet, if we hesitate too long it may go out of print.

The war and post-war conditions made music-purchasing very difficult, with the result that, though many standard works in standard editions are now out of print, worn copies cry out for replacement. It is a happy time for second-hand dealers, and here South African buyers are at a disadvantage. Dealers' catalogues have been combed by the people on the spot before the post brings them to us. One is at the mercy of the dealer in the matter of the condition of

## MUSIC IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY: SOME PROBLEMS

the item, and what is good enough for a private buyer is not necessarily suitable for a library which wants to bind its music. Binding costs are high and music is too flimsy to use without binding. The fact, too, that the binding has to be done overseas means that new music may be some time reaching the borrower, which is frustrating for everyone concerned.

Cataloguing is tricky because there is no set form for titlepages, to say nothing of the variations in language. But I have said enough, I think, to suggest that this field offers plenty of scope to anyone with a liking for problems.

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## SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES

In its Report on Scientific and Technical Library facilities for the Committee on Industrial Productivity, the Panel on Technical Information Services recommended that a Scientific and Technical Library Authority should be set up as a semi-independent agency of the Government to run central loan and reference libraries and to advise and assist financially other technical libraries. After considering this Report the Advisory Council on Scientific Policy has stated in its Third Annual Report (1949-50) that :

"While agreeing with the diagnosis and broad objectives stated by the Panel, we felt doubtful whether the case for an executive Scientific and Technical Library Authority was made out. We consider that the objects which the Panel had in view could be achieved by existing organizations, given effective co-operation and increased support for their efforts. We therefore decided to constitute, with your approval, a Standing Scientific Library and Technical Information Committee of the Advisory Council on Scientific Policy :

- (i) to co-ordinate the development of scientific libraries as a whole, and to consider in greater detail the parts to be played by individual Libraries ;
- (ii) to examine their additional requirements in the light of the needs of users ;
- (iii) to review the recruitment and training of scientific librarians ;
- (iv) to initiate and co-ordinate the preparation of union lists, and
- (v) to devise and introduce as soon as possible a system of common or interchangeable readers' tickets for those libraries where tickets are required.

"We consider that in this way co-ordination can readily be achieved by bringing those interested together, and that the necessary support for the provision or extension of facilities can be enlisted. In our view the necessary knowledge and organizations already exist but they urgently need increased resources and a higher status if they are to meet the national need."

This committee has now been set up under the chairmanship of Mr. E. M. Nicholson, of the Office of the Lord President of the Council . . . Aslib's representative on the committee is Mr. B. Fullman, of the British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association.

*Aslib Information*, August, 1950.

## BOEKBESPREKINGS

SHERRIE, Heather, and Phyllis Mander Jones. *Short list of subject headings*. Sydney, Angus and Robertson, (S. African agent: F. Meekin, 43, Church St., Cape Town), (1950). (viii), 167p. 24cm. 35s.

A new aid for any of the day to day problems of cataloguing and classification in the library is always of interest, particularly when it comes from another Commonwealth country. This book, by the Mitchell Librarian of Sydney and her deputy, is the first of its kind in the Australian field. Acknowledgment is made to a pioneer work in cataloguing by the Librarian of the Public Library of New South Wales, fifty years ago, and also to Sears' *List of subject headings* and several other contemporary tools. It is stressed however that it is for the use of Australian public and school libraries.

The first nine pages contain a full explanation of the use of subject headings and it is to be noted that departure is made here from usual practice in the rule that most economic and social subjects should be subdivided by country instead of vice versa. (In the list itself Social Life and Customs is a sub-heading under countries while Economics is sub-divided by country). Next follows a list of all the sub-headings that may be used under any headings and under certain kinds of headings only.

The list of headings itself is a model of clarity. The page is printed in two columns, the first containing the heading in bold type under which, indented, are any *see also* references. Direct *see* references follow after the heading on the same line. The second column is headed *Refer from* and contains all headings from which reference should be made. The initials "d r" after a heading in this column indicate *direct reference*, i.e. not a *see also* reference.

The list is certainly as comprehensive as its 149 pages will allow. Headings under names of countries only appear when references to or from other headings make this desirable, e.g. Africa—People *see also* Negroes. The field of knowledge is admirably covered and, despite the declared Australian bias, it may definitely be said that the South African user will find it far less foreign to local application than is the case with the most used American lists. Peculiarly Australian words do crop up, of course, but not in any great number. Aborigines, Australian refers you to Australian Aborigines, and though Station is the common Australian word for a stock farm or ranch, two of the three headings incorporating the word refer directly to other more widely used terms. In fact, what South Africans are likely to consider least to their liking is the price, which, however, considering the small circulation for such books and its excellent production, is not unduly high.

A.M.L.R.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. *The Year's work in librarianship*, vols. XII (1939-1945) and XIII (1946); ed. by J. H. P. Pafford. London, The Library Association, 1949. (vol. XII, 30s. (22s. 6d. to members); vol. XIII, 21s. (16s. 6d. to members).)

It is pleasant to see these very useful volumes in print once more after the long break of the war years. *The Year's work* covers practically all phases of librarianship, and should prove valuable to all those studying for professional examinations. Emphasis is on work in Great Britain, but it also contains a great deal of information on developments in other countries. References to South African library affairs, unfortunately, tend to be too brief to give a very accurate picture.

A new chapter has been added to the present volumes, entitled 'Bibliography: Subject', in which selected bibliographies which have appeared are noted and methods and techniques employed are commented on. There is also a very useful selected list of books on librarianship covering the years 1939-1946; nor should the numerous references to periodical articles, etc., appearing in the text be forgotten.

L.P.

# AFDELING SKOOL- EN KINDERBIBLIOTEKE

*Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging*

Deel 11

Januarie 1951

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## THE INTER-HIGH SCHOOLS LIBRARIANS' SUB-SECTION OF THE SCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S LIBRARY SECTION, SOUTHERN TRANSVAAL

E.V. HINWOOD, *Johannesburg Public Library*

DURING the first half of 1946, a few of the Johannesburg library prefects felt that the meetings of the School and Children's Library Section, although very instructive on such matters as cataloguing, classifying, book selection, and the variety of other subjects which were discussed, and providing much information which helped them in the more efficient running of their own school libraries, did not quite fulfil the need felt for a more intimate and detailed comparison of the methods and difficulties which were current in each of the libraries. It was considered that relatively informal meetings between the school librarians, freed from the awe-inspiring presence of their elders and betters, on details of book arrangement and book-stock, the minutiae of routines, times of opening, relation to teaching staff, and all the multiplicity of things which constituted the main interest of their work, would be at once profitable and interesting, supplementing the proceedings of the School and Children's Library Section, and would provide social contact between the librarians of the various high schools, which would incidentally stimulate cultural activities in general.

The matter was tentatively broached at a meeting of the School and Children's Library Section, and received the support of the above-mentioned elders and betters. The instigators of the movement were then detailed to draw up a draft constitution, which served as the basis of a discussion between two of the library prefects and the committee of the Section. The control of the Inter-High Schools Librarians' Sub-Section was to be entirely in the hands of students, subject to the supervision of the School and Children's Library

## SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARIES

Section, to which reports were to be submitted at regular intervals. All non-pupils were to be excluded, with the exception of the teacher-librarian of the particular school at which the meeting was held, who could attend if insistent. The Committee of the Sub-section was to consist of a member from each interested school, which elected from its own numbers a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. The Chairman and one other member of the Committee were to sit on the Committee of the School and Children's Library Section. Each school joining the Sub-Section was to contribute the small annual sum of two shillings, raised in 1948 to half-a-crown, to cover postage, stationery and other general expenses; and the responsibility for the refreshments was to lie with the particular school at which a meeting was held. Meetings were to take place at least seven times in each government school year, but attendance was limited to six members from each school. Book-lists were to be drawn up at least twice a year and circulated among the member libraries: this, however, was discontinued at the beginning of 1949. At the end of each year a vote was to be taken on the best organized library visited during the year. With the possible exception of the Annual General Meeting to be held at the beginning of each year, the meetings were to take place in the Library of one of the member schools. The objects of the Sub-Section were stated to be: "To facilitate the intercourse and interchange of ideas of the librarians and library-prefects of the various high schools and junior high schools."

The first Annual General Meeting, to finalize the constitution and elect the Committee, was held on the 5th February, 1947, at Johannesburg Public Library, and the first ordinary meeting took place at Athlone High School on March 12th. The schools originally participating in the new movement were Athlone High School, Highlands North High School, Jeppe High School for Girls, Johannesburg Girls' High School, Kingsmead, and Parktown Girls' High School. Since then, however, librarians from Sir John Adamson Junior High School, Observatory Junior High School, Parktown High School for Boys, Forest High School, Jeppe High School for Boys and Johannesburg Commercial High School, have also attended meetings. The numbers present at Sub-Section meetings have fluctuated between twenty and fifty-two.

Besides viewing and discussing various high school libraries, the Sub-Section regularly attends meetings of the School and Children's Library Section, has participated in a quiz with the Section on matriculation set-books in general, with the emphasis on literature, and has organized quizzes among its own members. At the end of 1948, Mrs. Beach gave a talk on "Libraries in Canada" to a meeting of the Sub-Section held at the Johannesburg Public Library. It has been decided to organize book review talks by members in the future to provide variety.

This Sub-Section, which has now been in existence for four years, has



## THE INTER-HIGH SCHOOLS LIBRARIANS' SUB-SECTION

amply fulfilled the objects for which it was founded, and has provided enormous stimulus to the high school librarians who have been members of it. It was inaugurated as an experiment to fulfil the requirements of the pupils specifically as against those of all people interested in running high school libraries, and its success has guaranteed it as a permanent institution. The tendency to extend its activities augurs an extremely promising future.

### LIBRARY SERVICE TO PUPILS

The libraries of the Wauwatosa Elementary Schools, Wisconsin, have evolved the following objectives, outlined by grade level, for their elementary school library services to pupils:

#### *Kindergarten*

1. Maintain attractive library corner.
2. Develop library citizenship.
3. Encourage care for books : (a) keeping books clean ;  
(b) turning pages correctly.
4. Promote habit of going to library to satisfy individual or class interests.
5. Create appreciation and interest in pictures, stories and poems.

#### *First Grade*

1. Maintain attractive library corner in classroom.
2. Develop library citizenship.
3. Encourage care for books : (a) keeping books clean ; (b) turning pages correctly ; (c) opening new books ; (d) using bookmarks.
4. Continue to promote habit of going to library to satisfy individual or class interests.
5. Use a definite procedure in taking books for home reading.
6. Create appreciation and interest in pictures, stories and poems.

#### *Second Grade*

1. Maintain attractive library corner in classroom.
2. Develop library citizenship.
3. Encourage care for books : (a) keeping books clean ; (b) turning pages correctly ; (c) opening new books ; (d) using bookmarks.
4. Continue to promote habit of going to library to satisfy individual or class interests.
5. Use a definite procedure in taking books for home reading.
6. Develop appreciation and interest in pictures, stories and poems.

#### *Third Grade*

1. Maintain attractive library corner in classroom.
2. Develop library citizenship.
3. Encourage care for books : (a) keeping books clean ; (b) turning pages correctly ; (c) opening new books ; (b) using bookmarks.
4. Teach library technique to library groups ; (a) checking books in and out ; (b) locating books on shelf.
5. Introduce reading circle work.
6. Develop appreciation and interest in illustrations, stories and poems.
7. Continue to promote habit of going to library to satisfy individual or class interests.

## SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEKE

### *Fourth Grade*

1. Maintain attractive library corner in classroom.
2. Develop library citizenship.
3. Encourage care for books : (a) keeping books clean ; (b) turning pages correctly ; (c) opening new books ; (d) using bookmarks.
4. Teach library techniques to library groups using reference books ; (a) locating books on shelves : (i) information books by call numbers ; (ii) story books by author ; (b) making use of information given on title page.
5. Introduce magazines.
6. Continue reading circle work.
7. Develop appreciation and interest in illustrations, stories and poems.
8. Continue to promote habit of going to library to satisfy individual or class interests.

### *Fifth Grade*

1. Maintain attractive library corner in classroom.
2. Develop library citizenship.
3. Encourage care for books : (a) keeping books clean ; (b) turning pages correctly ; (c) opening new books ; (d) using bookmarks.
4. Teach library techniques to library groups using reference books : (a) understanding arrangement of books in classes according to the Dewey Decimal System ; (b) using the card catalogue ; (i) to find if library has a book with a certain title ; (ii) to find if library has a book by a certain author ; (iii) to find if library has books on a certain subject ; (c) presenting parts of a book : (i) frontispiece ; (ii) title page ; (iii) preface ; (iv) dedication ; (v) table of contents ; (vi) index.
5. Use of encyclopedia.
6. Guide pupils in use of magazines.
7. Continue reading circle work.
8. Develop appreciation and interest in illustrations, stories and poems.
9. Continue to promote habit of going to library to satisfy individual or class interests.

### *Sixth Grade*

1. Maintain attractive library corner in classroom.
2. Develop library citizenship.
3. Promote respect for books.
4. Continue to teach library techniques to library groups : (a) develop further understanding of arrangement of books in classes according to Dewey Decimal System ; (b) drill in using card catalogue : (i) to find if library has a book with a certain title ; (ii) to find if library has a book by a certain author ; (iii) to find if library has books on a certain subject ; (iv) to understand a cross reference.
5. Use of encyclopedias : (a) know fact index in Compton ; (b) know study guide in World Book ; (c) know study guide and ready reference volumes in Junior Britannica.
6. Guide pupils in use of magazines.
7. Continue reading circle work.
8. Practice in reference work to develop ability to find information on desired topic.
9. Develop discrimination in book selection.
10. Further appreciation and interest in illustrations, stories and poems.
11. Continue to promote habit of going to library to satisfy individual or class interests.



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